

VZCZCXR06475
OO RUEHDE
DE RUEHKU #4534 2960643
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 230643Z OCT 05
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1451
INFO RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE 0854
RUEHZM/GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 1041

UNCLAS KUWAIT 004534

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STATE FOR NEA/ARPI SWALKER, SA/FO FOR JGASTRIGTH, LONDON
FOR LTSOU, ISLAMABAD FOR TWILDER

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: AEMR ASEC CASC KFLO MARR PREL AMGT XD KU
SUBJECT: MGXDO1: KUWAIT EARTHQUAKE ASSISTANCE UPDATE

REF: A. SECSTATE 195483

1B. KUWAIT 4398

11. (U) This is the second update from Post on Kuwaiti assistance to the victims of the South Asia earthquake.

12. (U) Press reports over the last week cite planeloads of Kuwait Red Crescent Society relief assistance arriving in Pakistan and being channeled through the Pakistani Red Crescent Society (PRCS) bringing food, tents and blankets to victims. Another plane was expected to arrive on Thursday with 10,000 tents and 100,000 blankets provided by KRCS. KRCS has apparently rented a storehouse in Pakistan (\$6000/month rent, according to press reports) to store food items as necessary.

13. (U) The Kuwaiti Ambassador to Pakistan, Faisal Al-Mualifi, noted in an interview with the Kuwait News Agency, that the GOK would focus its assistance efforts on food items, medicines, tents and blankets. The Acting Under Secretary at the Kuwait Finance Ministry also confirmed to Econcouns (reported septel) that KRCS's \$50M share of the overall GOK \$100M pledge would be transmitted to the Red Crescent "today or tomorrow."

14. (U) KRCS efforts have also been augmented by an initial \$100K contribution by the Kuwait Joint Relief Committee (KJRC), which was announced on October 18 by KJRC delegation head, Badur Al-Shamreh, during a visit to Islamabad. Al-Shamreh indicated that KJRC will also contribute to constructing small houses for displaced victims.

15. (U) Post plans to meet with KRCS and Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials before the October 26 Geneva Donors Conference (reftel A) to encourage continued GOK support to help address outstanding needs as described in reftel.

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